GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2197
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2016
Polio Eradication
Ray Dr. Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been declared as polio free country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether polio strain has been found in sewage in the southern part of the country recently and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent the further spread of this deadly disease and for total eradication of polio in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a): Yes, India along with ten countries of World Health Organisation (WHO) South East Asia Region has been certified Polio free by the Regional Polio Certification Commission on the 27th March 2014.

(b): Yes, a Vaccine Derived Polio Virus strain type 2 was detected in sewage sample from Hyderabad on 7th June, 2016. No polio strain was isolated from human.

(c) & (d): To maintain the polio-free status, government is taking following measures:

â€¢ In response to the event of Vaccine Derived Polio Virus detected in sewage in Hyderabad, even though there was no human case, a special immunization drive was carried out in high risk areas of Hyderabad and Rangareddy in Telangana as a preventive measure and 3,11,000 children were vaccinated with a dose of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV).

â€¢ Population immunity against polio is maintained by observing two National Immunization Days (NID) and atleast two sub national polio immunization rounds (SNID) every year, in addition to polio vaccination through routine immunization so that the polio virus cannot establish its circulation in the event of its introduction through importation from other countries. Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) has also been introduced across the country to further boost the population immunity as additional protection against polio.

â€¢ Vaccination to international traveller to and from 7 polio infected countries and continuous vaccination at the international borders of India are being carried out throughout the year to mitigate risk of importation.

â€¢ Sensitivity of polio surveillance is maintained through Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance in human and environment surveillance to detect any polio threat as early as possible and respond quickly to mitigate the risk of circulation.